



# **WHITEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY**

This policy reflects the school values and philosophy in relation to the teaching and learning of Religious Education. It sets out a framework within which teaching and non-teaching staff can operate and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment.

Religious Education at Whitefield is part of the School Development Plan and is given the same status as other subjects in the curriculum. It is taught in accordance with the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education 2016, which follows the requirement of the Education Reform Act 1988 that the syllabus “shall reflect the fact the religious traditions in Great Britain, are in the main Christian, whilst taking into account the teaching and practices of the other principle religion represented in Great Britain”

RE aims to help the children make sense of life and understand what it is to be human.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Scheme of Work for Religious Education which sets out in detail what pupils in different classes/year groups will be taught.

### **Audience**

This document is intended for all teaching staff, all staff with classroom responsibilities, school governors, parents, inspection teams and LEA Advisers/Inspectors.

Copies are provided for staff and Governors and are available to others for viewing on request.

### **Subject Aims**

Religious Education is a subject taught as part of an overall curriculum and in addition to the stated National Curriculum.

Through the teaching of Religious Education the school aims to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils and recognises that Religious Education offers a distinctive opportunity to do this within the curriculum framework.

“It offers opportunities for deep personal reflection and spiritual development, deepening the understanding of the significance of religion in the lives of others – individually, communally and cross-culturally .RE also contributes to pupils’ personal development and well-being and to community cohesion by promoting mutual respect and tolerance in a diverse society”

This statement, taken from the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus, reflects the school's aims and philosophy for Religious Education.

Religious Education in the school aims to explore shared human experience, religious traditions, beliefs and values and personal meaning. It will support pupils in the formulation of their own beliefs, values and attitudes, in preparation for their adult life in a rapidly changing world.

### **Curriculum and School Organisation**

See Curriculum Map and Scheme of Work.

The school's provision for Religious Education is in accordance with the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus.

Alongside Christianity, the progressed studies at Whitefield are Islam and the Hindu Dharma. These reflect both the pupil population and the religious faiths predominant in the local area. There are also units taught in Key stage 1 and 2 on the Jehovah'switness faith to reflect the proportion of pupils of that belief in school.

The syllabus is designed to focus the children's learning and experience on the central beliefs of the faith studied, the access to which is highlighted through different year themes and it is taught on a yearly cycle.

The framework enables progression and continuity. Each unit enables the children to learn from and about the religion being studied and gives them opportunity to share human experience, explore beliefs, values and practices, and relate these to personal meaning.

As with all other areas of the curriculum, Religious Education is taught through a variety of teaching and learning styles. Some units are taught mainly as a single subject study with some integration with other subjects, whilst other units are cross-curricular and the children are encouraged to question, discuss and formulate their own ideas.

The subject leader is Mrs Julia Kimberley. She is responsible for co-ordinating the subject, overseeing the resources, liaising with staff and managing the RE budget. The Co-ordinator endeavours to be informed about current issues through a number of sources, including SACRE reports, network meetings and OFSTED reports.

### **Time Allocation**

Religious Education teaching is planned so that annually approximately 3.5%-4.5% of teaching time is allocated throughout the school.

### **Class Organisation and Teaching Style**

Each class teacher is responsible for delivering Religious Education.

Within classes pupils are taught mainly as a class, with opportunities for children to work with a group or individually according to the learning task.

Religious Education provides opportunities to teach cross-curricular themes and dimensions and its skills are pertinent to each child's development within a skills based curriculum.

In the instances where Religious Education is integrated with other curriculum areas to enhance the teaching and learning experiences of pupils, the point of RE delivery is clearly identified.

### **Resources and Accommodation**

There is a detailed Scheme of Work, following the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus. This is made up of units of work which show continuity and progression from FS to year 6.

To supplement these units the school has a range of material for class use, including CEM material, other published material, artefacts, library books and human resources. Where appropriate in the curriculum, outside visits to places of worship are undertaken (for example year 2 visit the Hindu temple in Preston each year) The RE Co-ordinator has a list of contacts of faith speakers and class teachers are encouraged to invite them into school to give the pupils further insight into the different faith communities.

Resources are located in the classroom of the RE Co-ordinator in Class 3/2JK and are fully accessible to staff.

### **Arrangements made for Pupils Withdrawn from RE**

At the present time parents wishing their children to be excluded from Religious Education accept that they will be removed to another part of the classroom and given alternative work, whilst the rest of the class engage in their Religious Education lesson.

In the event of a specific request being made for their total removal from the room, the Headteacher would deal with this sensitively and appropriately.

### **Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

The Agreed Syllabus now includes Standards of Attainment for RE, specific to the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus and drawing on QCA's guidance on RE. The two attainment targets are 'Learning about Religion and Human Experiences' and 'Learning from Religion and Human Experience'. There is now a requirement for reporting on levels of attainment for Attainment Target 1 & 2 at the end of each Key Stage. The results are collated by SACRE and published in their annual report. Teacher Assessment is the method employed in the assessment of Religious Education.

Children receive a yearly comment on the school report, relating to their personal response to the aspects of Religious Education covered that year.

### **Subject Development Plan**

Along with other curriculum subjects, RE is monitored, evaluated and reviewed on a regular basis.

### **Links with Other Policies**

This Policy should be cross-referenced with policies on:

Planning	Assessment	Record Keeping	Reporting
Co-ordinator Role	INSET Provision	Equal Opportunities	Special Education Needs
Cross Curricular Skills	Themes & Dimensions	Evaluation	Cross Phase/School Transfer

